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(c) whether any members have been appointed to represent municipalities whose jurisdictions are contiguous to those of such boards and committees ;

(d) if not, why Government have omitted to appoint such representatives ; and

(e) whether Government propose to take any action to make good such omission ?

A.—(a) & (b) A statement [a] giving the information required is laid on the table.

(c), (d) & (e) The members who are also members of the Council of the municipality in which the port lies are indicated in the statement. These members have been appointed to Port Conservancy Boards or Landing and Shipping Fees Committees not because they are members of a municipal council but because they are interested in the trade of the port. The Government consider that the best members of a Board or Committee are those who are directly interested and concerned in the work of the port.

[For farther list of unstarred questions, vide page 495 infra.]

## STARRED QUESTIONS

### Agency

*Rural water-supply in Polavaram division.*

* *310 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state the particulars of the three years' programme for the improvement of rural water-supply in the Polavaram division submitted to Government by the Government Agent, East Godavari, with reference to G.O. No. 310, Revenue, dated 9th February 1928, and also the orders of Government thereon ?

A.—A copy of the three years' programme [b] for the improvement of rural water-supply in the Polavaram division, East Godavari Agency, is appended to the answer. The question of financing the scheme is under the consideration of the Government.

### Gazetteers

*Compilation of District Gazetteers.*

*311 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that no Gazetteers have hitherto been compiled for certain districts in the Madras Presidency ;

(b) if so, what are those districts, and why no Gazetteers have been compiled and published so far ;

(c) whether any officer was at any time deputed to prepare Gazetteers for those districts ;

(d) if so, who were the persons so deputed and for what districts and within what time they were asked to complete the Gazetteers ;

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a Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 584–585 infra.
b Printed as Appendix IX on pages 585–586 infra.

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(e) for what districts the said officers have completed the Gazetteers and in what period of time and if no Gazetteers have so far been completed by those officers, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the work of revising the existing Gazetteers was undertaken at any time and whether any officer or officers were deputed for the purpose;

(g) if so, which of them completed the work and which did not and for what reasons;

(h) how far the work of revision has progressed and when the Government expect it to be completed; and

(i) what are the districts for which such revision is being undertaken and what are the districts for which Gazetteers are out of print and for how long and why?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The districts are—Kistna, Guntur, Nellore, Chingleput, Kurnool, Ganjam and the three new districts of Chittoor, Ramnad and West Godavari. The reasons why Gazetteers have not been compiled for these districts are given below.

(c) & (d) In 1902 and 1903 orders were issued that the officers in charge of the resettlement of these districts should prepare the Gazetteers in the course of their settlement work In 1926 Mr. J. J. Cotton was placed on special duty as Editor of Gazetteers for a period of two years in the first instance. He was in charge of the work of writing Gazetteers till his death on 20th June 1927.

(e) The settlement officers owing to their other work found themselves unable to complete the Gazetteers for the districts mentioned above. Mr. Cotton made substantial progress in the preparation of the Gazetteer of Nellore but died before the work was completed.

(f) Mr. Cotton was also entrusted with the work of revising and bringing up to date the statistical tables in the volumes of existing Gazetteers.

(g) & (h) Mr. Cotton sent the statistical volumes for 21 districts to the press before his death. The work is now being continued by the Personal Assistant to the Editor of Gazetteers under the direction of Mr. Vernon, Member of the Board of Revenue. The Government are unable to say when it will be completed.

(i) The revision of the statistical volumes has not been completed for the districts of Vizagapatam and East Godavari. There is no information with the Government as to the districts for which Gazetteers are now not available for sale. It is being collected

*Revision of Gazetteers and preparation of statistical volumes.*

*312 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) when and why the office of the Curator of the Record Office was combined with the preparation and revision of District Gazetteers and whether the arrangement still continues or has been abandoned;